

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated September 29, 2009, the Assignee respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above amendments and on the following remarks.

Claims 1-33 are pending in this application.

Rejection of Claims under § 103 (a)

The Office rejected claims 1-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,526,581 to Edson in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0095543 to Oi.

These claims, though, are not obvious over *Edson* with *Oi*. These claims recite, or incorporate, features that are not disclosed or suggested by *Edson* with *Oi*. Independent claim 1, for example, recites “*determining an output port in a router based on a frequency of at least one component signal of the multi-frequency signal.*” Support may be found at least at paragraph [0011]. Independent claims 11, 16, 22, and 28 recite similar features.

These features are not obvious over *Edson* with *Oi*. *Edson* uses interface cards to provide interfaces between a gateway and home devices. See U.S. Patent 6,526,581 to Edson at column 3, lines 25-30 and at column 4, lines 20-35. The gateway includes interface cards to internal, in-home networks, such as HPNA, powerline, wireless, and Ethernet networks. See *id.* at column 10, lines 45-60. Each interface card provides a two-way conversion. See *id.* at column 10, lines 57-59. The gateway’s processor automatically detects each device and selects the appropriate interface. See *id.* at column 11, lines 10-20. *Oi* describes a DSL relay that extends the distance of DSL signals. Still, though, the combined teaching of *Edson* with *Oi* fails to teach or suggest port selection in a router “*based on a frequency.*” Claims 1-33 cannot be obvious, so the Office is thus respectfully requested remove the § 103 (a) rejection of the pending claims.

If any issues remain outstanding, the Office is requested to contact the undersigned at (919) 469-2629 or scott@scottzimmerman.com.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott P. Zimmerman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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